

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 EA-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NEA-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

SWF-02 OMB-01 SAJ-01 L-03 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

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R 281059Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8558

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: NA.

TAGS: EAGR; PFOR; EEC; DA.

SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH MIN. AG. ON SOYBEAN CAP

REF: COPENHAGEN 290.

1. WHILE MY CALL ON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
KOFOED PRIMARILY CONCERNED FISHERY MATTERS (SEE SEPTTEL), THE
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FIRST POINT I RAISED WITH HIM WAS THE EC PROPOSAL FOR A COMMON

AGRICULTURAL POLICY ON SOYBEANS. I TOLD HIM WE REMAINED SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS THREAT TO OUR SOYBEAN EXPORTS AND THAT I HOPED HE WOULD OPPOSE THE ADOPTION OF IT WHEN THE CAP DECISIONS ARE MADE IN BRUSSELS NEXT MONTH, ADDING THAT I AM A SOYBEAN FARMER MYSELF AND THAT THIS IS THE FIRST YEAR I HAVE MADE MONEY ON THEM. HE DOWNPLAYED THE PROPOSAL, REPEATING THE OFT-STATED ARGUMENT THAT THE US SHOULD NOT REALLY BE CONCERNED SINCE ANY EC PRODUCTION THAT MIGHT RESULT WOULD NOT BE SIGNIFICANT.

2. AFTER AGREEING THAT EC PRODUCTION WOULD UNLIKELY BE LARGE IN THE NEAR FUTURE, I EXPLAINED THAT THE GREAT RISK WAS THAT ONCE THE CAP WAS ESTABLISHED SOME EC MEMBERS WOULD USE IT AS A VEHICLE TO MAKE IMPORTED SOYBEANS LESS COMPETITIVE WITH THEIR HOME-GROWN GRAIN. THIS, I POINTED OUT, WOULD NOT ONLY DAMAGE OUR SOYBEAN EXPORT PROSPECTS BUT WOULD ALSO BE HARMFUL TO THE VERY IMPORTANT DANISH LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY BY RAISING ITS NET FEED COSTS. IN THIS LIGHT, KOFOED AGREED THAT ANY MOVE THAT WOULD LEAD TO INCREASED SOYBEAN COSTS WOULD INDEED BE UNDESIRABLE. I CLOSED THE SUBJECT BY REITERATING OUR HOPE THAT DENMARK WOULD JOIN WITH THE OTHER EC MEMBERS WHO ARE OPPOSED TO IT IN BLOCKING THE ADOPTION OF THE SOYBEAN CAP IN BRUSSELS.

3. COMMENT: KOFOED'S OPPOSITION TO ANY MOVE THAT WOULD LEAD TO AN INCREASE IN THE COST OF SOYBEANS SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN THE DANES WILL IN FACT OVERTLY OPPOSE THE SOYBEAN CAP IN BRUSSELS. RATHER IT MEANS THAT THERE IS DETERMINATION ON THE PART OF THE DANES TO ASSURE THAT A SOYBEAN CAP DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY BORDER BARRIERS WHICH WOULD LIMIT OR INCREASE THE COST OF SOYBEAN IMPORTS. WHILE THE FINAL POSITION DENMARK WILL TAKE IN BRUSSELS HAS NOT SOLIDIFIED, I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT ARE PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH A LIMITED CAP FOR SOYBEANS, WHICH THEY SEE AS POLITICALLY IMPORTANT TO FRANCE. ALSO, THEY RETAIN THE IMPRESSION THAT THE US WILL NOT BE TOO SERIOUSLY UPSET IF A SOYBEAN CAP WHICH DOES NOT HAVE ANY BORDER IMPACT ON SOYBEAN IMPORTS IS ADOPTED.
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